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International Nuclear Energy Academy elects INL leader

IDAHO FALLS – One of Idaho National Laboratory's top managers, Phillip J. Finck, Ph.D., has been elected to the membership of the elite International Nuclear Energy Academy (INEA).

INEA is a group of prominent, experienced scientists, engineers and related nuclear energy specialists who conduct studies and discussions, and develop recommendations for the international nuclear community on various generic nuclear energy issues. Academy membership is limited to 100 distinguished individuals from around the world.

Finck is the associate laboratory director for Nuclear Science & Technology at INL and is an internationally recognized expert in advanced reactor and fuel cycle programs.

He completed his undergraduate degree from École Des Mines in France and earned a doctorate in nuclear engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1982. He also holds an MBA from the University of Chicago.

He was a mechanical engineer from 1983 to 1986 at Novatome in France, where he was involved in the safety and design of fast reactors, including Superphénix. In 1986, he joined the staff at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) in neutronics methods development for the Integral Fast Reactor concept, and later for the New Production Reactor. In 1991, he became the lead for neutronics analyses for Experimental Breeder Reactor-II.

In 1993, he joined the French Atomic Energy Commission, where he was head of the Reactor Physics Laboratory at the Cadarache Center, with responsibilities in light-water reactors and liquid-metal reactors, criticality safety, fuel cycle physics and nuclear data. In 1995, he was elected chair of the European Nuclear Data Project.

In 1997, he rejoined ANL, where he was associate director of the Technology Development Division. Leading activities in the Advanced Accelerator Applications program from 2000, he transformed the program from accelerator-based to reactor-based transmutation. In 2003, he was named ANL deputy associate laboratory director for Engineering Research. In April 2006, he was named ANL associate laboratory director for Applied Science and Technology, where he was responsible for coordination of all nuclear energy-related activities at Argonne, including the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative, the Generation-IV program and development of new initiatives.

In October 2006, Finck joined INL as the associate laboratory director for Nuclear Science & Technology, the key position in the nation's nuclear energy laboratory. In 2007, he took on an additional responsibility as the U.S. Department of Energy's Technical Integration Office director for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, then the flagship program of DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy. Today, he leads the Fuel Cycle Research and Development Technical Integration Office for DOE.

Under Finck's leadership the past three years, INL has made remarkable progress toward becoming an internationally recognized nuclear energy research and development laboratory. This has required a substantial transformation of organization and programs, as well as building staff capabilities through targeted growth.

Finck is a frequent keynote speaker on nuclear energy in North America, Europe and Asia. He is an internationally recognized expert on nuclear energy technology development including advanced reactors and fuel cycle research.

INEA is a virtual organization that meets only two times annually with proceedings embedded in larger nuclear-related gatherings such as the recent Global 09 international meeting earlier this month where Finck was one of the keynote speakers.

The objective of the INEA is to underpin the development and utilization of the peaceful application of nuclear energy in a safe and economic manner throughout the world through its status as a learned society. Finck's responsibilities as a member of INEA will include more intense collaboration with nuclear related professionals across the world focused on addressing the needs of the future of nuclear energy worldwide.

Harold McFarlane, deputy associate laboratory director for Nuclear Science & Technology at INL, is also a member of the INEA and is currently serving as chairman of the organization.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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